

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 PA-01 SP-02

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P R 170817Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7838

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 9058

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAR: ASEAN, VM, MY

SUBJ: US-ASEAN DIALOGUE: LACK OF REFERENCE TO "ZOPFAN"

REF : A) KUALA LUMPUR 9023 (NOTAL) DTG 161005Z AUG 78, B) STATE

204796 (NOTAL) DTG 122018Z AUG 78, C) STATE 202046 DTG

100123Z AUG 78 (NOTAL)

1. TOWARD THE END OF MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN
AUGUST 15 TO DISCUSS HIS PERCEPTION OF THE RESULTS OF THE US-
ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON (REF A) HE VOLUNTEERED
THAT THERE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN A SUGGESTION WITHIN ASEAN TO
INCLUDE SOME REFERENCE TO ZOPFAN IN THE DRAFT US-ASEAN COMMUN-
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IQUE." HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IDEA HAD BEEN DROPPED, AT
LEAST IN PART AT HIS INITIATIVE. AS HE PUT IT SINCE "WE ARE
ALREADY AWARE OF US SUPPORT FOR ASEAN" AND ARE IN THE PROCESS
OF NEGOTIATIONS "WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES" ON THE SUBJECT OF A
SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEACE ZONE, IT WAS FELT TO BE "PREMATURE" TO
SEEK USG SUPPORT FOR ZOPFAN AT THIS POINT IN THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE.
FURTHERMORE, TO RAISE SUCH A MATTER WOULD HAVE HAD THE EFFECT

OF DETRACTING FROM THE ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC CHARACTER OF THE DIALOGUE AS THERE IS NO CLEAR "ECONOMIC LINK" BETWEEN ZOPFAN AND ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS. I SAID THAT PERSONALLY CONSIDER HIS LINE OF REASONING TO BE SOUND, I.E., THAT REFERENCES TO ZOPFAM IN THE WASHINGTON TALKS MIGHT BE TAKEN AS DIVERGING FROM THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ASEAN AND THAT IN LIGHT OF THE ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE ON DETAILS OF A PEACE ZONE, SUCH A REFERENCE MIGHT INDEED BE CONSIDERED TO BE PREMATURE.

2. I MENTIONED MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GOM'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SRV ON THE PEACE ZONE CONCEPT INITIATED DURING PHAN HIEN'S RECENT VISIT HERE WOULD BE CONTINUED IN NORMALY DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ONCE MALAYSIA'S NEW AMBASSADRO, KAMIL JAAFER, GETS SETTLED IN HANOI, RITHAUDDEEN REPLIED THAT THIS WAS TRUE, NOTING THAT THE GOM IS PROCEEDING "VERY CAUTIOUSLY" IN ORDER NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN "BILATERAL SQUABBLES" BETWEEN THE SRV AND CAMBODIA AND THE SRV AND PRC. NONETHELESS, THE GOM IS "PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THEM (SRV), FOR INSTANCE, ON WHAT THEY MEAN BY THE WORD 'INDEPENDENCE'" IN THEIR FORMULATION ON A PEACE ZONE, HE INDICATED.

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